MONTEREY NEWS

June 2022 Est. 1970
Vol. LII · Number 6

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station, Bracken Brae farm stand

The ox cart passing the old Brewer Tavern was part of the town's bicentennial celebration in 1976. Rob Hoog's fourth segment of the history of Monterey can be found on pages 24 and 25.

What's so special about them? First of all, they are a beautiful large bird with gray plumage, golden eyes, and a gloriously red crown.
A Sandhill Crane Odyssey page 24

The council on aging has launched a support group for people with Parkinson's disease and also for their caregivers.
Parkinson's Support Group page 12

News about work at the town beach, Bidwell Park, and the town hall playground.
Parks Commission page 9

A jazz trio will play on Saturday, June 18 to provide some of the authentic flavor of the "Smalls" club, which Roland captured in his art.
Knox Gallery page 9

Astonishingly, the memorial honors by name more than four thousand men, women, and children who are identified victims of lynching in the United States between 1877 and 1950.
A Reckoning page 22

Neither "total equality before the law" nor "separate but equal" describes the lived experience of too many generations of non-white Americans. Historical fact, some of us declare aloud. Historical fact, others of us mumble with a shrug.
His Spirit Lives On page 21

The large maple in front of the Monterey Community Center, along with a couple of black cherry saplings, stood deeply entangled in a snare of bittersweet, mostly, but also barberry and euonymus.
Freeing the Trees page 14

226 of 732 registered voters, 31%, turned out for town elections that were held on Tuesday, May 10. Select board member John Weingold resigned on May 11.
Town Elections 2022 page 2

Eighty-seven registered voters were there on May 7 to do the work of passing the town's budget.
May 2022 Town Meeting page 3

Thank you for entrusting me with the role of select board member. I hope that I will prove worthy of your trust
In My View- Susan Cooper page 5

She came to understand that deep-rooted, emotionally-charged issues undermined efforts to reach accord. What was unspoken, she surmised, were experienced as assaults on one's dignity.
Dignity Workshop page 8

The design is a practical and adaptable space that is double the size of the old Roadside, plus there will be a covered patio for outdoor dining as well as Monterey Coffee Club meetings.
Roadside 2.0 page 10

The growing number of residential solar arrays is also a sign of the times, when the urgency of reducing atmospheric carbon to mitigate the harms of climate change has become a mainstream concern. Look for updates in the *Monterey News*.
Renewable Energy Group page 8

This special exhibit celebrates Monterey's 175th anniversary of its incorporation as a separate town in 1847, and is being presented by the Monterey Historical Society and the Bidwell House Museum.
Monterey's Attic Exhibit page 15

Town Elections 2022

226 of 732 registered voters, 31%, turned out for town elections that were held on Tuesday, May 10. Last year 269 of 696 registered voters, 39%, voted.

Contested Seats

Finance Committee (3 years)
- Frank Abbott (D) 128
- Roger Tryon (R) 86

Select Board (3 years)
- Susan Cooper (D) 179
- Jeremy Rawitz (R) 40
- Steve Snyder (write-in) 1

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)
- Gary Shaw (D&R) 186

Board of Assessors (3 year)
- Scott Steibel (D&R) 175

Board of Health (3 years)
- Thomas Mensi (R) 176

Board of Health (2 years)
- Mort Salomon (D&R) 177

Bylaw Review Committee (1 year)
- Anne Marie Enoch (D&R) 185

Bylaw Review Committee (2) 2 years
- Jeff Zimmerman (D&R) 168
- David Myers (D&R) 175

Bylaw Review Committee (2) 3 years
- Pauline Banducci (D&R) 175
- Stuart Litwin (D&R) 167

Cemetery Commission (3 years)
- Michael Banner (D&R) 190

Constable (3 years)
- Julio Rodriques (D&R) 188

Library Trustee (2) 3 years
- Carolee (Mickey) Jervas (D&R) 188
- Rebecca Wolin (D&R) 154

Library Trustees (2 years)
- Nancy Kleban (D&R) 184

Library Trustees (1 year)
- Judy Kamenstein (D&R) 186

Moderator (1 year) 195
- Mark Makuc (D&R)

Parks Commission (2) 3 years
- Gerald Clarin (D&R) 182
- Steven Snyder (D&R) 172

Parks Commission (1 year)
- Christopher Andrews (D&R) 179

Planning Board (2) 5 years
- Lauren Behrman (D&R) 169
- Margaret Abbott (R) 155

Planning Board (1 year)
- Noel Wicke (D&R) 171

Tax Collector (3 year)
- Anne Marie Enoch (D&R) 192

Tree Warden (1 year)
- Myles Pierce (D&R) 174

On May 11, the day after town elections, John Weingold filed his resignation as select board member. His term was through the May 2023 election. The select board will set a date for a special election to fill this vacancy.

Monterey is 175!
We've only just begun...
1847-2022

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, June 25th
Bidwell House Museum Country Fair
Saturday, July 30th
Book Sale & Steak Roast
Friday, August 5th
Community Contra Dance
Saturday, August 6th
Lake Fest

Bracken Brae Farmstand

Open beginning early June
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
495 Main Road
(.5 miles east of Monterey village)
Facebook: Bracken Brae Farmstand
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May 2022 Town Meeting Report

Aldeth Lewin

It is a testament to the strength and character of our small town that anyone at all showed up to sit outside in the freezing, whipping wind for three hours to do the people's business.

In fact, eighty-seven registered voters were there on May 7 to do the work of passing the town's budget. For the most part, the $4.8 million budget was approved as proposed in the warrant, including annual funding for the schools, law enforcement, town operations and services.

But it wouldn't be town meeting without some spicy (yet civil) discussion on the hot topics of the town administrator's salary, the need for human resources management, and the invasive milfoil in Lake Garfield.

Salaries

Nancy Tomasovich made a motion to reduce the town administrator's proposed salary of $77,850 to $35,000 and make it a part-time position. Her motion included redistributing the administrator's duties and using the salary savings to hire a full-time secretary for the administrator.

"When the town administrator was recommended, it was a part-time position, and advertised as such," Tomasovich said.

This met with a mix of support and pushback.

"This little argument is costing this town thousands of dollars and it's not helping anybody," select board chairman Steven Weisz said.

He said the current administrator, Melissa Noe, was hired under a contract which is not up until 2024, therefore, changing the salary or duties would be breaking a contract and opening the town to litigation risk.

The motion to amend the budget to reduce the administrator's salary was too close to call by voice vote, so the bright orange cards distributed to all registered voters in attendance were used to count the vote. The amendment failed with fifty-four voting no and fifteen voting yes.

Two new positions were approved in the 2023 budget: $8,455.40 for an office assistant in town hall and $5,700 for a select board secretary.

A line item of $5,000 to pay a grant writer was half of the previous year's allotment, but voters reversed that. David Myers made the motion to bump it back up to $10,000 and it passed.

"Agreed, it's a skilled profession and deserves to be paid," said Barbara Swann.

There was some discussion on the line item to add a full-time police officer salary to the budget, but Police Chief Backhaus explained that this is part of a new state mandate to eliminate the part-time police academy. He said the reorganization will only cost about $7,000 and will ensure full time coverage for the town. The line items for the police salaries passed without amendment.

Human Resources

The proposed FY 2023 budget included Article 11 to appropriate $5,000 from free cash for Monterey's portion of a shared HR manager or consultant. The town administrator has been working with four other towns to hire an HR professional jointly.

In a display of democracy in action, the voting public worked together to amend the language and increase the budget item to $10,000.

The motion to amend the line item was proposed by Jeffrey Zimmerman. His amendment also removed the "shared" language.

"It may be possible to find a consultant and not have to wait for a shared one," he said. >

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Town Meeting, cont. from page 3

Finance committee chair Michelle Miller said she felt the town's HR issues could be solved by the existing staff and elected officials.

"I think it's important that we look to ourselves to find solutions to this HR issue," she said. "Let's stop throwing money and spending money on things that we can do better at fixing ourselves."

Select board member Justin Makuc said he felt the move would give the select board more flexibility in finding help for the town.

After some back and forth about the proper wording, it was decided to change the language to appropriate $10,000 for "Human Resource services."

The amendment was approved by voice vote and the measure passed.

Capital Expenses

A number of capital expenses—to be paid for out of free cash—were also approved at town meeting including:

- Article 8: $7,000 for a multi-functional copier for town hall.
- Article 9: $3,500 for security cameras for town hall.
- Article 10: $5,000 to purchase or rent electronic voting equipment.
- Article 12: $30,000 for fire company capital improvements.
- Article 13: $25,000 for a replacement fire hose.
- Article 14: $160,000 for a new F550 truck for the fire department and approval to sell the department's current 2014 F550.

Aldeth Lewin

Lake Garfield

There were two articles on the town warrant to address the invasive aquatic lake weed—Eurasian watermilfoil—that continues to infest Lake Garfield.

The first, Article 29, was a citizen's petition to appropriate $50,000 from free cash to pay for the non-chemical control of the lake weed as well as hire a lake scientist to help determine the abundance and distribution of the milfoil in the lake.

Selectman Makuc said this is an increase from the $30,000 appropriated last year and will help to not only continue removing the weed from the lake but begin to make some long-term plans to address the problem.

It passed by a majority voice vote.

The second petition, Article 30, was a non-binding resolution to prohibit any use of chemical herbicides in Lake Garfield for the next five years.

It was introduced by Bonner McAllister who said the Friends of Lake Garfield group has been working on this effort to protect the lake. She said Lake Garfield is considered a "great pond" in the state of Massachusetts and that means some regulations are determined at a higher level.

"But this is really to give the people in the town the opportunity to stand up and say, we don't want this," she said.

Not everyone seemed to support the ban on herbicides.

"I just don't see the purpose of this. Putting herbicides in the lake is not in the town's responsibility or jurisdiction, so I don't see why we have this," said Ron Rothschild.

Tom Mensi said the lake is going through a "sickness cycle" and just like you would go to a doctor for medicine when you are sick, it is possible that some herbicides would improve the lake's health. As a fisherman, he said the milfoil is damaging the lake and he has witnessed fish kills because of it.

"We have to open our minds to the fact that these herbicides may be a part of the treatment regimen that's going to help keep this lake an asset to the town," Mensi said.

Weisz weighed in on the issue in favor of banning herbicides for five years.

"Herbicides will not eliminate Eurasian milfoil," he said. "We're never going to win the war."

The only thing you might do is end up with a lake full of herbicides, he said.

The measure passed with thirty voting in favor of the ban and eleven voting against it. >

MONTEREY UNITED

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

Online worship is available on the Lenox website blog:

lenoxucc.org/blog

For Information and Assistance:
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www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

Underride

The last item on the town warrant, Article 31, dealt with whether the town should be required to reduce the amount of real estate and personal property taxes by $500,000 for the coming fiscal year. After some discussion, the matter was tabled.

Select board member Makuc said the measure is something the select board would put on next year's ballot, and that a vote to approve it now would simply encourage the select board to consider it. He explained that if passed, the measure would reverse what was done in 2017. It wouldn't cut the budget, it would limit the increase of the budget every year by a percentage. It could be overridden.

"It sounds like it would lower taxes, but it doesn't," Weisz said.

Weisz said it would reduce the town's flexibility to raise and lower taxes, which could hurt the town's bond rating.

Jon Sylbert disagreed and said many towns have done this without it affecting their ability to borrow money. He said the town has a year to sort the issue out and come back next year for a vote.

Finance committee chair Michele Miller said the matter should be discussed further in finance committee and select board meetings.

"This is a solution in search of a problem," she said.

A motion to table the matter was approved by a majority voice vote.

After some more discussion about future of taxes in the town, the availability of free cash in the town's budget, and the stabilization fund, the rest of the town warrant was dealt with and the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The people who stayed to the end of the meeting didn't linger, hastening back to their cars and warm houses. It took this reporter about three hours to loose the deep chill that had seeped into my bones, but I'm still in awe of the town's ability to come together and take care of business when called upon to do so.

For full results of the town meeting go to the town's website www.montereyma.gov.

—Aldeth Lewin

In My View

Greetings Monterey!

Thank you for entrusting me with the role of select board member. I hope that I will prove worthy of your trust.

We are only two weeks and three meetings into my term, but I feel we are off to a very strong start. Justin Makuc is serving beautifully as board chair. He is serious, steadfast and prepared. He runs the meetings superbly, keeping matters flowing, properly administering to matters of order, and recognizing anyone who wishes to speak. The trust he and I have built over the last year is paying dividends now, allowing us to help each other through difficult moments and find common ground when we approach issues from differing viewpoints. Our ability to work together constructively has allowed us to make quick work of many administrative issues, including hiring new town counsel and seeking a mediator to help work through issues in town hall. With luck, by the time this issue goes to print, we will have a new human resources director, and be on our way to a thorough updating of HR in Monterey. If not, I am now much more confident that we have resources to proceed with a successful search—sooner not later!

There are a lot of issues facing our town in the near and not-so-near future which I believe are important to address. The long-term financial health of our community is crucial, especially with so many weighty and costly changes likely. To that end, the select board and the finance committee have already had our first joint meeting, and we are all committed to a cooperative and thorough budget planning process. I am very happy to welcome Frank Abbott to the finance committee. His experience with managing major capital budgets and working with department heads through the planning process will be a huge benefit to the town.

And I want to thank the Monterey Planning Board for undertaking a new master plan. In the next year, the planning board with the help of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will be crafting a master plan. This process gives us the opportunity to really think about the strength and health of our town in so many different ways. There will be lots of chances for folks to participate in this process, with the first one on Saturday, June 25, at 10 a.m. Make sure to take a look at the planning board's postings and come out to some of the meetings. Meet your neighbors and take a bit of social time to think about your community. See you there!

—Susan Cooper
Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View *provides individual select board members an opportunity to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

Estate Planning & Community Care
Know the Options
ANNUAL ELDER LAW LECTURE
June 9, 2022 3:30 - 5:00 pm
at the Monterey Community Center
Presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association
Sponsored by the Monterey Council on Aging

Monterey Community Center
June is A Busy Month

Support Group for People with Diabetes: Beginning on Wednesday, June 22, at 1 p.m., we will be starting a support group for those with diabetes, caregivers to those that have diabetes, or those simply interested in information regarding diabetes. We will be discussing all aspects of diabetes including diet, exercise, and lifestyle.

Roberta Epstein MSW, ACSW and Bob Carlson RN, M. Ed will facilitate the group. Roberta has been a clinical social worker and geriatric care manager for over forty-three years. She has had extensive experience with the home-bound elderly, providing services to allow them to remain in their homes, providing coping strategies, support services, community resources, and assisting in long-term planning. She is well acquainted with the complicated health care system and can be a resource for navigating it. Bob Carlson is an RN and has had diabetes for many years. He has been a nurse at Gould Farm and several schools as well as at a camp for children with diabetes. Together, Roberta and Bob can educate and support those newly diagnosed and those who have had diabetes for years. You may feel like bringing up issues or you may just want to listen and learn.

We will meet under the tent at the community center. Please bring a lunch. There is no charge for the support group. All are welcome but please preregister with the MCC (below).

Yoga Nidra, with Nancy Monk: Restore your Body, Senses, and Mind!

Yoga Nidra is an ancient practice that's becoming increasingly popular as both a form of guided meditation and a mind-body therapy.

Yoga Nidra promotes deep rest and relaxation. The body scan and breath awareness calm the nervous system, leading to less stress and anxiety, and better health. It offers a space to explore what you need in the moment, as well as an opportunity to work on releasing long-held emotions.

Body, senses, and mind are restored to their natural function and a seventh sense is awakened that allows us to feel no separation, seeing wholeness, tranquility, and well-being! There is basically no effort in Yoga Nidra. There is nothing you need to do except relax in a comfortable position.

This will be at the MCC on Thursday, June 2, 6 to 7 p.m. Contact the MCC (below) to register. Donations will be accepted.

Reiki 1 Certification Training: Reiki Level 1 is a practitioner's initiation into Reiki, open to all. It is a completely natural and holistic healing modality that interacts with one's energy field, enhancing the body's ability to heal. Benefits include: better sleep, decreased anxiety, reduced pain, and more energy and vitality.

In this class you will learn: what Reiki is, the history of Reiki, learning and understanding energy, chakras, and applications of Reiki. We will practice doing Reiki on ourselves and others, receive Reiki attunements and more!

Nancy Monk, a lifetime summer resident of Monterey, is a Certified Medical Reiki Master. Currently Nancy is sharing her work throughout Berkshire Health Systems treating patients and staff and teaching Reiki to healthcare workers.

This is a hands-on class and is designed to build confidence in practice.

Wear comfortable clothes, bring a blanket, a water bottle, bring a lunch, and a notebook.

All participants will receive a detailed manual and a certificate of completion for Level I

To be held at the community center on Saturday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is $120. For questions and payment, please contact Nancy Monk by calling (203) 685-2104, or emailing her at nancyamonk@gmail.com.

Please register with the MCC (below).

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Games begin at 10:30

Understanding and Improving Posture, with Jamie McDermott, on Saturday, June 18, at 2 p.m.

Concerned about your posture? Want to stand taller? Or straighter?

Whether you're concerned about improving your posture or aiming to maintain the posture you already have, there's something to learn in this workshop for everyone.

We'll explore the broad concept of posture in relation to the holistic functioning of the body. We'll discuss how posture relates to movement, affects our joint health, impacts our ability to breathe freely, and influences our emotional state.

In this workshop you'll learn:

How your posture can reveal underlying imbalances;

A four-step process you can use to help improve your posture;

Key areas to pay attention to when you examine your posture;

Some simple stretches and exercises you can use to help maintain, or improve, your posture.

Using what we learn, we'll assess our own posture and practice some simple techniques to benefit our postural health.

Far more than how we stand, good posture can indicate a healthy balance within the body and an ability to move and function effectively.

Join us for this workshop and help yourself to move better and feel better!

Jamie McDermott, CPT, CHEK HLC2, is an award-winning certified personal trainer, orthopedic exercise specialist, and holistic health coach. She has been helping individuals of all ages and abilities to achieve their goals of optimal health and wellness for the past fourteen years. Approaching each person with authenticity and genuine care, Jamie continues her work of helping others at her private studio in Great Barrington. If you have a desire for positive change, let Jamie help you on your path of being your very best healthy self!

Please register with the MCC (below).

Birdwatching walk with Joe Baker. Join Joe on Saturday, June 11, at 9 a.m. (Rain date Sunday, June 12.)

Joe Baker, our MCC founder, artist, musician, and lifelong birder will lead a bird-watching walk at the community center and down New Marlborough Road. Wear good shoes for walking in woods and meadows and bring binoculars if you have them. Bring your preferred precautions for ticks with you.

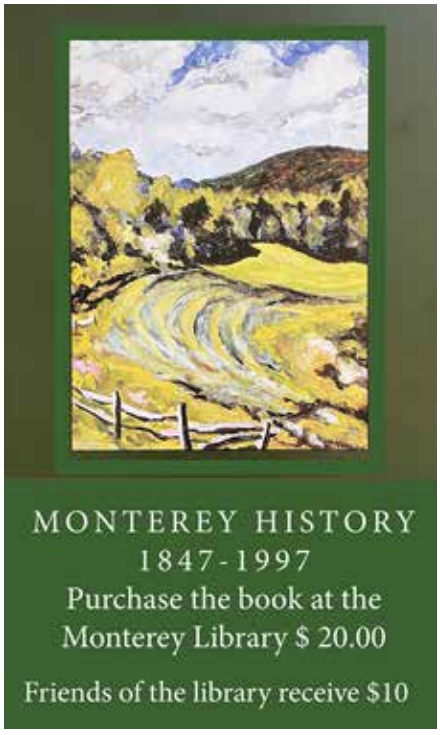
Cell phones will be turned off during the walk and may only be turned on in order to record birdsongs. The bird watching walk is free but goodwill donations to the community center are welcome. Contact the MCC if you have questions.

***En Plein Air* Painting and Drawing:** Join us on three consecutive Thursdays, June 16, June 23, and June 30, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The fee is $10 per class.

With pencils or paint, New Marlborough artist Ann Getsinger will offer a peek into the traditional roots and processes of interpreting the landscape around us. The course will include an oil painting demo of a traditional realistic method of starting a painting from life, with concepts which apply to all media. Students are encouraged to express themselves freely, using the lessons as a springboard. Open to adults and teens with a strong recommendation that beginners start with drawing.

In addition to each student's preferred medium (pencils, pens, oils, acrylics, watercolor, etc.), please bring canvas or paper to work on. Also please bring a support (lap board, stiff backing for drawing, or easel for painting), personal protection (sunblock, water, sun hat, apron), as well as miscellaneous things you might need like jars, rags, wipes, brushes, paper, canvas, sharpener for pencils—but most of all bring your curiosity and resilience.

Class size is limited. Please register by contacting the MCC (below).



Jack Ryder Memorial Service

A memorial service will be held for John (Jack) Ryder on Saturday, June 11. Jack passed away November 7, 2020, at the age of 89. There will be a small graveside service for family, friends, and neighbors at Corashire Cemetery at 2 p.m. It will be followed by a Celebration of Life at Crissey Farms in Great Barrington from 2:30-5:30, where all are welcome to come gather with the family and share memories. A full obituary can be found at finnertyandstevens.com.

—Karen Consolati

Questions and Registrations

For questions or to register for any of the workshops and activities, please call (413) 528-3600 and leave a message, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Mary Makuc
MCC Coordinator

Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group

Don Torrico, our building inspector, reports fourteen installations of residential solar panels in Monterey for the current fiscal year to date, with one month to go. This is encouraging to all members of the Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group. We share a more or less existential view of the need to stop burning fossil fuels like oil and gas, or even carbon fuels that have stored the energy of the sun in our own era, like wood. Instead, it makes sense to us to use solar panels (No emissions! Not even any moving parts!) to make electricity, a virtually universal source of familiar, readily distributed and broadly adaptable energy, directly from the sun.

The growing number of residential solar arrays is also a sign of the times, when the urgency of reducing atmospheric carbon to mitigate the harms of climate change has become a mainstream concern. Governments, businesses, and individuals are all taking steps, which has created a tangle of opportunities and pitfalls. We continue to study municipal options for funding and expertise, as well as planning and policy matters such as appropriate siting and technology.

Meanwhile, we applaud the fact that many Monterey homes already generate electricity from the sun. Some have roof panels, others ground-mounted panels; some are fixed, others are manually adjusted, and some are trackers; some store the electricity in batteries and net-meter any excess, others simply net-meter their power into the grid. Every step counts.

This summer we will gather together many owners of residential panels to speak to interested homeowners of their experiences. There's no need to miss an opportunity for lack of information. Look for updates in the *Monterey News*.

—Peter Murkett, Chairperson
Monterey Renewable Energy
Working Group

Dignity Workshop

On April 14, a group gathered in the Knox Gallery of the Monterey Library, with many others on Zoom, to hear a presentation by Dr. Donna Hicks, a research associate at Harvard University, on the topic: "Dignity in Monterey." The event was the idea of and organized by Dr. Lauren Behrman. Lauren, and husband Dr. Jeff Zimmerman, both clinical psychologists, became familiar with Dr. Hicks' "Dignity Model" in their therapeutic and mediation work with couples.

Given the level of discord in the town recently, Lauren thought that Dr. Hicks' approach to conflict resolution and mediation might prove useful. Working with leaders in business, health care, government, and education, Dr. Hicks came to understand that deep-rooted, emotionally-charged issues that remained unacknowledged undermined efforts to reach accord. Thus was born her approach. By bringing these feelings to the surface, and then identifying and training the parties in conflict in the "Ten Elements of Dignity," and the "Ten Temptations to Violate Dignity," movement toward resolution became possible.

The comments and questions following Dr. Hicks presentation reflected a positive reaction to it. How the model might be implemented in Monterey wasn't clearly spelled out, but there was clearly sufficient interest shown to merit a follow-up gathering.

Again, Lauren took the lead in organizing this. A dozen of us met in the community center on Friday, May 6. Some espoused the view that by engaging together in new enterprises the tone of the body politic would improve. For example, collaborating with Gould Farm to rebuild a bigger, better Roadside Café. By working together as teammates, the level of discord would diminish. One suggestion, which bore fruit at the May 7 annual town meeting, was to ask for more money for human resources in the hope that town hall operations would run more smoothly.

We are indebted to Lauren for her foresight and engagement in bringing the dignity approach to the town's attention, and to all the folks who volunteered to help her make this happen. For those interested in furthering the efforts to bring dignity to Monterey, stay tuned for information about where and when the follow-up meeting will be. Email Lauren at laurenbehrman@gmail.com.

—Bob Cutick

ॐ

Bonsai Cox

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Summer in Monterey Parks

Town Beach

When you return to the beach this year, you will see a beautiful box installed and planted by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group. We have removed the historic beach plaque, and it will be set into a new monument. New beach sand has been delivered, groomed, and graded, and already the buoys and rafts have magically appeared (with many thanks to Mark Makuc). We hope to have lifeguards on the job by the end of June, but Berkshire South is experiencing a serious shortage of personnel. It is doubtful that they can supply a swimming instructor, so if you are highly qualified for any of these positions, please let the Parks Commission know. In the meantime, swim and use the beach at your own risk, and be careful of children out on the rafts. As we all share the beach, we welcome anyone's ten minutes of raking or quick toy pick up any time. Across the street the kayak racks are filling up, as people get ready for the season.

Everyone in the lottery was given a spot.

Elsewhere around town

Bidwell Park: Take a walk to Bidwell Park. This hidden gem suffered greatly from emerald ash borers, and the dead trees will be removed in June, restoring the park to its quiet beauty.

Town Playground: Commission member Tom Mensi has done a lot of research about renovation of the town playground. He has created a six-question survey in order to get input from the community. If you have spent happy hours in the playground, we would like to hear your ideas. Link to the survey: tiny.cc/MontereyPlaygroundSurvey.

Watch for new signs with the Town of Monterey seal at both the town beach and Brewer Pond Park. Take the opportunity to visit all of our parks this summer!

—Tracey Brennan
Monterey Parks Commission

Zaid Nasser and Ari Roland

June at the Knox Gallery

Knox Gallery will be hosting a special event in conjunction with *Alan Roland: Smalls*, which is currently on view at the gallery. The artist has arranged for a jazz trio to play on Saturday, June 18, at 7 p.m., to provide some of the authentic flavor of the "Smalls" club, which Roland captured in his art. Roland's son Ari (bass), Yaala Ballin (vocals), and Zaid Nasser (saxophone) will fill our space with music! We hope you will join us for what is sure to be a lovely evening.

We are fortunate to have three such prominent musicians come to play for us in Monterey. Ari Roland has led over 150 tours throughout at least four continents. He has been featured in the groups of numerous jazz icons. He grew up in New York City, studied at Julliard, and has been lauded as "a master of his trade" (*Rolling Stone*) and "the best arco bass soloist in jazz." (*Stereophile*)

Yaala Ballin was born in Israel, and moved to New York in 2004. She has performed in numerous prominent New York City and European and Middle Eastern venues. She, too, is a Jazz Ambassador, and has represented the State Department in performances and clinics in Ukraine and Turkey.

New York City native Zaid Nasser learned alto saxophone from jazz legends—his father Jamil Nasser, and Papa Jo Jones, Ahmad Jamal, and George Coleman. He tours regularly as a Jazz Ambassador, bringing jazz and blues to new audiences worldwide.

Yaala Ballin

The exhibit features watercolor paintings that capture the excitement at "Smalls," a jazz club in Greenwich Village, New York, which was opened by Mitchell Borden in 1994. Over its ten-year life span "it became celebrated as one of the most important jazz venues worldwide," the artist states. Roland was a weekly attendee at Smalls, there to draw and paint the musicians (one of whom was a young Ari Roland) while they were playing. His works from the time are those in this exhibit.

Alan Roland: Smalls has been extended and will be on view through June 25. During July, the Monterey 175th Anniversary Committee will host an exhibit at the gallery. New work by Julie Shapiro will open on August 4, just after the library's book sale.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions, such as admission scheduling. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

The Roadside 2.0

Last fall, as the Covid variant Omicron arrived in the Berkshires, Gould Farm made the tough decision to close its Roadside Store & Café for good. The Farm had operated the Roadside as a therapeutic work program and a neighborhood café and store (and at one time a gas station) for over forty years!

Many factors led to the decision to build rather than renovate: the building's age (a century), size, structural challenges, therapeutic work program limitations, and lessons learned from the pandemic. Gould Farm concluded it was time to construct a new building.

Great Barrington's Zac Culbreth Architecture designed the proposed new Roadside Café. The design is a practical and adaptable space that is double the size of the old Roadside plus there will be a covered patio for outdoor dining as well as Monterey Coffee Club meetings. Gould Farm will have its Roadside and the Harvest Barn Bakery social business enterprises under one roof. There will be a full kitchen for guests to prepare food, and learn alongside staff at the grill and pancake machine.

First though, Gould Farm has had to raise charitable contributions to cover the $1 million cost for site prep, construction, and equipment. The Farm started the quiet phase of its capital campaign two weeks after closing the Roadside. Two longtime board members made lead gifts totaling $125,000. Board member Mayra Rodriquez hosted an invitation-only event at the Monterey Library (by invitation only due to Covid restrictions). Gould Farm staff Lisanne Finston, Nathan Yaple, and Francie Leventhal unveiled the Roadside 2.0 renderings. The audience gasped in amazement at what they saw and now we share these renderings with readers of the *Monterey News*.

The list of features and benefits of the new Roadside is long. Here are just a few:

Gould Farm will be able to launch a new social business enterprise with the Harvest Barn Bakery becoming part of Roadside. The Roadside will be the public's one-stop access to Gould Farm baked goods, farm products, general Gould Farm merchandise, and other goods made locally.

The new Roadside footprint will be double that of the old one and added will be a four-hundred-square-foot covered patio. The new kitchen alone will be about the same size as the entire old Roadside! The work program will have more guests participating and with a variety of responsibilities.

There will be a full kitchen for expanding and improving the Roadside therapeutic work program along with better customer service, more open hours (like on Sundays!) and a greater variety of breakfast and lunch options for eating in or take-out.

PLAY GROUP

South Berkshire Kids Playgroup

Monterey Library

Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.
June 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

Join us for free play, storytime, songs and more!! Best for families with children ages birth to 5. This program is free and open to the community, no registration required.

SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education

Customer area with breakfast and lunch bar.

The east end's open patio seating area.

As the public face of Gould Farm, the new Roadside will work well in reducing the stigma of mental illness.

Area residents, weekenders, relatives of residents, and the Gould Farm Board have given about $350,000 as of this writing. We held an open house on May 29 at the Roadside property for everyone interested to see the renderings, budget, and fundraising status. We hope the amount raised is much higher by the time you see this *Monterey News*!

The Roadside's absence is creating a void in the guests' therapy and recovery. Work therapy program pressures will require that Gould Farm finish fundraising by August 2021 and start construction as soon as possible.

Closing the original Roadside for good fostered an outpouring of inquiries about when we will start construction on the new Roadside. Such interest validates that Gould Farm's plans for the expanded guest work program and first social business enterprise will reap many benefits for the guests and the local community.

If you are interested in learning how you can invest in the new Roadside, please contact Melanie Brandston, Director of Philanthropy, mbrandston@gouldfarm.org or 413-528-1804, ext.27.

—Melanie Brandston

Contributions for May 2022

The *Monterey News* board would like to express their continued appreciation for all the supporters of the *News*.

A study of our expenses over the past five years—printing, mailing, and editorial, has shown a increase of 21% to 27% in each category. Remarkably, your contributions have managed to keep pace, so we can continue to offer free mailed subscriptions, free pickup copies in town, and free distribution of the pdf version via email.

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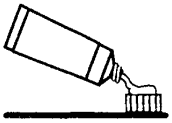
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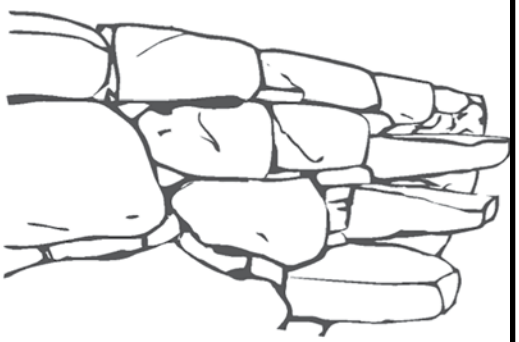


Southern Berkshire Parkinson's Support Group

Monterey's Council on Aging (CoA) has launched a support group for people with Parkinson's disease and also for their caregivers. This initiative was conceived in March 2021 with a state grant to assess the prevalence of isolation and loneliness among older residents. In the summer of 2021, a sample of homes with older residents was visited by two outreach workers. One of those homes was occupied by Richard Pargament and Charles Ray Norrell, domestic partners for over forty-six years. Ray was diagnosed with Parkinson's more than twenty years ago, and Richard is Ray's primary caregiver.

I had the pleasure of meeting Richard at his and Ray's home on Blue Hill Road to talk about the Parkinson support group: how it got started, what it offers, and where it's headed.

During the interview with the outreach worker, Richard suggested that a Parkinson support group might be established. Such a group could reduce the isolation of those with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Richard subsequently spoke at a CoA meeting at the community center about the potential value of a Parkinson support group in Monterey under CoA auspices. His ideas were well received. With lots of help from Kyle Pierce, then chair of the CoA, and Mary Makuc, the first meeting of the group was held on November 8, 2021.

Richard's prior experience as a member of a Parkinson support group in Tucson, AZ, and his experience as a primary caregiver to Ray, were instrumental in defining the Monterey group's structure and mission. The mission statement is simple and meaningful: "To improve the lives of people with Parkinson's disease and the lives of their caregivers."

While in Tucson one winter, Richard and Ray attended meetings of a Parkinson support group and realized immediately how beneficial it was to share information, personal anecdotes, and feelings regarding life with Parkinson's. According to Richard, the support group provided individual advice, networking opportunities, and information about local resources—detailed information, experience, and support from people living day-to-day with the disease.

The Monterey support group meets once monthly for two hours at the Monterey Library when the library is otherwise closed. The first hour of each meeting is generally devoted to a presentation from an expert professional experienced in some aspect of Parkinson's. For the second hour, the caregivers and those with Parkinson's meet separately to discuss whatever is on their minds.

Mark Makuc, library director, has enabled the Parkinson group to use library resources, and he is acquiring the technology that will allow the Parkinson group to have meetings with remotely located presenters and participants.

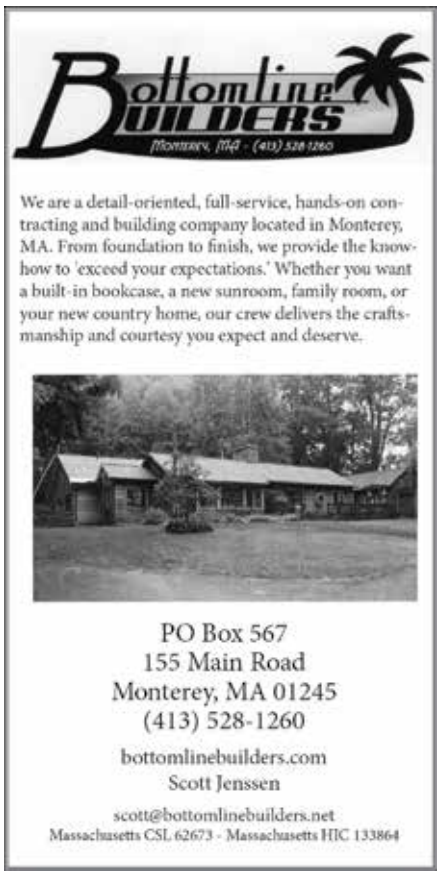
The Monterey support group is now affiliated with the Massachusetts chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, which has provided information, materials, and advice.

The support group includes individuals from neighboring towns including Sheffield, Great Barrington, Otis, Lee, and Hillsdale, NY.

Richard is responsible for program planning and he is the primary facilitator for the caregiver group. Roberta Weiss, a physical therapist and Monterey resident was recruited by Kyle Pierce to work with the CoA and particularly with the Parkinson group. Roberta will work with Richard going forward on program planning and administration. Roberta is the primary facilitator for the Parkinson group.

A few group members have also facilitated one or more sessions. Two member facilitators are retired schoolteachers who say they have years of experience in getting everyone to express themselves!

Clearly no stranger to a leadership role, Richard said in my interview with him that leadership of the Parkinson group initiative "had fallen to me." When I asked what he meant by that phrasing, his reply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was informative about his motive and an observation perhaps relevant to all of us. "I wanted to be a member of a Parkinson support group; I needed the support." He then added, "It can be like this in small towns. You come up with an idea, you own it, and then you help develop it." And develop it he did.

Richard, who has a Ph.D. in social psychology, has had a long, successful career that began in academe, teaching undergraduate courses in psychology and statistics at Rutgers. In 1977, Richard co-founded a consulting firm specializing in applied social science research. Richard's work at the firm included research in occupational education, juvenile justice, gender and race discrimination in the workplace, early college high school education, teen pregnancy, community development, foster care, and more.

The Parkinson support group's first presenters were physical trainers: Justin Soules and Josh Reis from Soules Sports & Fitness in Lee. At Soules Sports & Fitness, training sessions for clients with Parkinson's emphasize large movement exercise, balance, and endurance. Recent research shows that challenging exercise is crucial in Parkinson's treatment. Medications are of course needed to relieve its many symptoms, but exercise is absolutely essential to slow the progression of the disease.

Richard was presenter for a session concerning Parkinson's medication scheduling and dosage. With his partner Ray's permission, Richard used as an example a spreadsheet showing Ray's medication schedule and dose level. When schedules and dose levels are carefully followed, medications are more effective, and patients have more time during the day with diminished symptoms. Richard's presentation also emphasized the expertise brought by movement disorder specialists in constructing custom medication schedules for individual patients.

Roberta Weiss presented on March 22 about the importance of physical therapy. Her discussion included a description of the many ways PT assists people with Parkinson's.

The April 2022 presenter was Dr. Christina Stefanis, an occupational therapist, from Geer Village in Canaan, CT. She spoke of the many practical ways occupational therapy helps make life easier and safer for people with Parkinson's and for their caregivers.

The presenter for the May 5 meeting will be Cathi Thomas, MS, RN, CNRN, who is Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurology and Program Director of the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center at Boston University Medical Campus. She has dedicated her career to improving the lives of people living with Parkinson's disease. Cathi has provided various forms of technical assistance for establishing the Parkinson group in Monterey.

Where is the support group going? Richard says that the support group is in an early developmental and exploratory stage. Wherever it goes will be the result of input from the group's participants and an ongoing assessment of participant needs.

The course of each patient's illness is different, as is the experience of each caregiver. When the disease is first diagnosed, both patient and caregiver, understanding that Parkinson's is progressive and incurable, are faced with a daunting prospect. Most often the caregiver is a spouse. Wedding vows to care and support one another "in sickness and in health" suddenly assume a salience likely not felt before. The responses to such a challenge are as varied as there are patients and caregivers. Some are able to embrace the challenge immediately. Others may first respond with anger, frustration, and denial. Nobody wants to feel and be alone; Parkinson's is a very isolating, asocial experience. Whatever the initial or ongoing reaction, it's a certainty that having a safe, compassionate and knowledgeable space to share one's experience is crucial to the wellbeing of both patient and caregiver.

There are no incremental costs to town government for founding and maintaining the Southern Berkshire Parkinson Support Group. Certain CoA resources have been reallocated to the Parkinson group including management time, outreach coordinator time, and van service expense. Richard Pargament and Roberta Weiss are volunteers.

Further information about the Southern Berkshire Parkinson Support Group may be obtained by contacting Emily Hadsell, the council on aging's outreach coordinator, (413) 528-1443, ext. 112. Sessions of the support group are generally attended only by people with Parkinson's and by their caregivers.

The health of our Monterey community depends in no small measure on the spirit of volunteerism that sustains the CoA and many of our other working groups both in and out of town government. Hats off to all the townspeople who make that happen. And finally, kudos to Richard and all the others who helped him make Monterey's Parkinson support group a reality. Who might be the next to come up with a good idea, to own it, and work to make it happen?

—Bob Cutick

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Freeing the Trees

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, the large maple in front of the Monterey Community Center, along with a couple of black cherry saplings, stood deeply entangled in a snare of bittersweet, mostly, but also barberry and euonymus.

Two hours later, the oval of leaf litter around the trunks was well cleared. The soft breeze that broke the day's heat felt like a deep sigh of relief from the trees. The bittersweet vines that had entwined themselves high into the branches of the maple and were strangling the cherries had been cut to the ground. More work will be required later in the season to keep it clear.

Carole Clarin and three members of the Monterey Native Plants Working Group, under the leadership of Devan Arnold, an ecological landscaper and owner of Sassafras Land Care in Great Barrington, cleared the invasives. Devan has agreed to talk about the project in more detail at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11 (right after Joe Baker's birdwatching walk), at the community center, and to answer questions. It will be the first in a series of monthly "Backyard Ecologists" discussions planned by the working group. The idea is for an hour of discussion followed by a hands-on collaboration to remove new growth of invasives around the trees.

The freed trees are both considered to be keystone species, given the number of pollinators they support. Black cherries can feed and shelter more than four hundred species of *Lepidoptera*, the genus of insects that includes butterflies and moths. The maple can support nearly three-hundred species of insects, which, in turn, are essential for maintaining bird populations.

Caterpillars, the larval stage of many insects, are an essential nutrient for songbirds. Studies have shown individual birds require up to three hundred caterpillars a day to support a clutch of hungry chicks.

The native plants working group aims to eventually create a beautiful and nurturing environment around the base of the freed trees, full of *Aronia* (chokecherry) shrubs and native flowers. It is part of a longer-term project to use native plants to make our town a more welcoming place for pollinators, and to encourage people to bring them into their own backyards.

Janet Jensen

Before

Janet Jensen

After

Below: The crew (l. to r.) Judy Kamenstein, Libby Wolf, Janet Jensen, and Carole Clarin.

Devan Arnold

Ecological land care, as described on the Sassafras website (sassafraslandcare.com), "is in essence a landscape philosophy that looks to emulate the way that nature organizes itself in an environment to provide food and water to all of the many plants, animals, fungi, and microbes that reside there, all without the need of outside fertilizer, pesticides or irrigation… and nurturing the positive relationships that exist between the many living things in a landscape, while also creating a living, artistic expression that inspires and satisfies the innate need for beautiful textures, colors and forms."

Stay tuned to learn more about several projects the native plants group is planning towards this end. Proceeds from a tag sale slated for July 23, under the organizational skills of Myrna Rosen, will help support these projects. So begin putting aside items that you are ready to release.

And keep an eye out for a wider variety of birds and butterflies and bees fluttering by.

—Janet Jensen

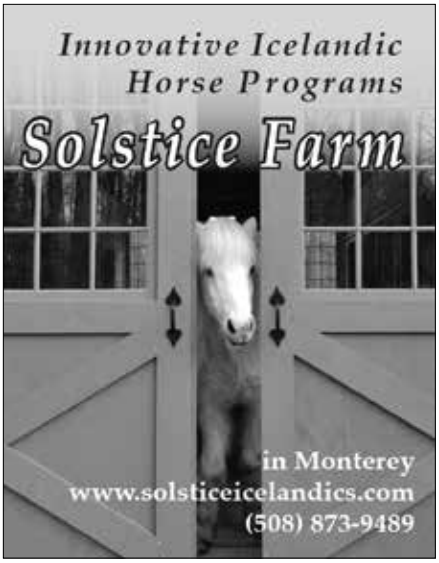
"Monterey's Attic"
Historical Exhibit

Mark your calendars—the "Monterey's Attic" historical exhibit will have its grand opening reception on Friday, July 1, from 7 to 8 p.m. The exhibit will be on display during July in the Monterey Library's multipurpose room during regular library hours, and will close on July 24. This special exhibit celebrates Monterey's 175th anniversary of its incorporation as a separate town in 1847, and is being presented by the Monterey Historical Society and the Bidwell House Museum.

A highlight of the exhibit will be the 1997 quilt made by the Piecemakers, and the unveiling of their newest—and final—quilt. The exhibit will feature many artifacts, photographs, and maps from the collections of the Monterey Historical Society, the Bidwell House Museum, and the Berkshire County Historical Society at Arrowhead. We've also received some fascinating memorabilia from townsfolk, including old photographs, artwork from the Berkshire Summer School of the Arts, posters for the 1980s Monterey(MA) Jazz Festival, a fish story and Monterey mystery, some civil war relics, the candy display case from the Monterey General Store during the 1930s-60s, and lots more! We're also planning to have a couple of history talks during the month, so stay tuned. Come take a look. See who you recognize. Can you identify more of the people in the photos? Let us know.

—Rob Hoogs

The Piecemakers Quilting Group, 1997, displaying the Town Seal Quilt made for the 150th Anniversary. This Quilt will be displayed along with the groups' newest quilt.



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The Not-So-Regal Bald Eagle

The largest predatory "master of the sky" over Buzzards Bay, as well as the national emblem of America, has returned to being frequently seen along our southern New England coastline. However, according to Benjamin Franklin, it is not at all regal because of perceived character flaws and bad habits. Franklin said it never deserved to be chosen to represent our nation. It frequently feeds on rotten carrion that washes up on the tidal beach, and is proved to be a coward by being driven from its regal perch by the much smaller kingbird.

The eagle also steals fish from ospreys, as illustrated in my drawing showing its nesting tower behind our house on Little Bay in Fairhaven. They also harass and steal from smaller birds. The eagle has dramatically increased in numbers for bird watchers to tally along our shores since the federal government banned the use of the pesticide DDT for mosquitos in 1963. This was in response to Rachael Carson's best selling book, *Silent Spring*, published the year before. Carson found and documented how the pesticide entered into the food chain, which caused havoc in bird reproduction.

In 1972 the use of shotgun shells with lead shot for hunting waterfowl was banned for a similar reason. The lead shot was being picked up by ducks and other waterfowl, entering the food chain and affecting their predators. Toxins concentrate as they travel up the food chain. If later swallowed into the gullet of an eagle at the top of the food chain, the lead becomes deadly poisonous. Otherwise eagles can live to as old as fifty years in captivity, and the oldest wild eagle tagged was at least thirty-eight years of age. They also have the record of building the biggest nest of any bird, some as tall as three stories. Young birds growing up develop a nesting site fidelity, but other birds, like ospreys, sometimes tear much of the eagles' nests apart in autumn to discourage the eagles to leave home.

Recent years have brought seasonal disruptions and the impacts of global warming resulting from climate change, which challenges migrating eagles. Eagle populations have been shifting northward from a number of southern state regions towards more comfortable habitats in the northern states. Audubon science laboratories have used the changing eagle habitat data to get a clear picture of this trend. This is a long way from James Audubon himself, who shot at least eight eagles to mount and paint in his studio.

Bald eagles have faced numerous global, human-caused challenges since the beginning of the twentieth century. During this same period, humans have sought to improve our ecological understanding of the "not so regal bald eagle." Neither their behaviors nor ours have been perfect.

—George B. Emmons

Memorial Day Parade

This is just a sampling of a beautiful day in Monterey. Devorah Sawyer caught the scene above with Justin Makuc on the fire company ladder taking a picture of the assembled folks. The intention is to print his photo across the centerfold in the July issue, along with photos from other folks.

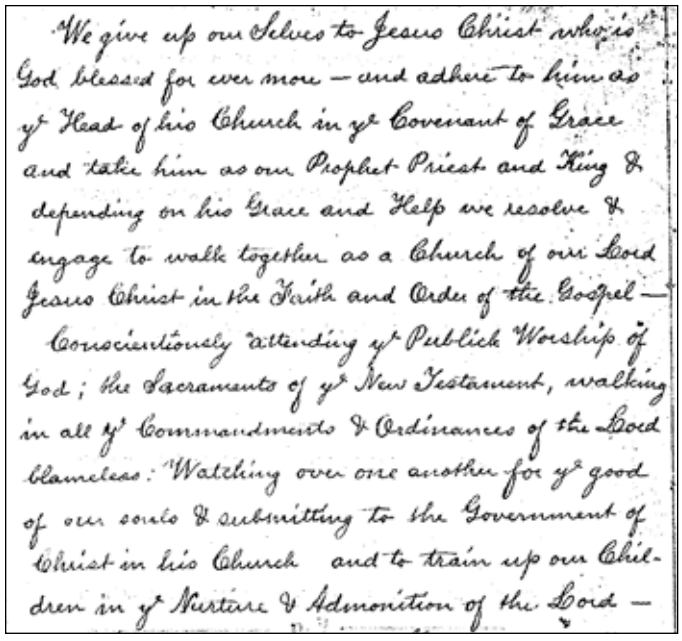
Feel free to send in what you think are good photos to montereynews9@gmail.com. If someone would like to write up their experience of this stellar day, please do!

— Stephen Moore, Editor

Photos on this page and elsewhere by Devorah and Suzanne Sawyer.

History of Monterey at 175

In last month's *Monterey News* history article, we ended with a very brief summary of the founding of the Monterey Congregational Church. We'll fill in more details this month. The church was established on September 25, 1750 by eight members: Adonijah Bidwell, Pastor; along with John Chadwick, Ephraim Thomas, William Hale, Deacon, John Jackson, Deacon, Jabez Davis, Thomas Orton, and David Everest. A portion of the handwritten "Covenant" copied from Rev. Bidwell's "day book" is at the right.



We give up our Selves to Jesus Christ who is God blessed for ever more — and adhere to him as y^e Head of his Church in y^e Covenant of Grace and take him as our Prophet Priest and King & depending on his Grace and Help we resolve & engage to walk together as a Church of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Faith and Order of the Gospel — Conscientiously attending y^e Publick Worship of God; the Sacraments of y^e New Testament, walking in all y^e Commandments & Ordinances of the Lord blameless: Watching over one another for y^e good of our souls & submitting to the Government of Christ in his Church and to train up our Children in y^e Nurture & Admonition of the Lord —

A week later on October 3, 1750, Rev. Adonijah Bidwell was ordained as the "First Minister" of what was then known as Township No. 1. Rev. Bidwell ministered to the township for thirty-four years, admitting ninety people to the church membership, and baptizing 378 children and adults. According to a brief biography of Rev. Bidwell by Rev. Calvin Durfee, D.D., in 1879, "He lived greatly beloved for his Christian friendship, charity, sound judgment, and integrity." He built his "manse" on the hillside overlooking the Boston-Albany Road and the meeting house, and raised his four children there. He died June 2, 1784, aged sixty-five, and is buried in the Henwood Cemetery on Beartown Mountain Road. His house and homestead are now the Bidwell House Museum. (The museum's website, bidwellhousemuseum.org, and its weekly "Bidwell Lore" history series, have much more detail about Rev. Bidwell and his family.)

As noted briefly in last month's article, Rev. Bidwell's family spread widely across the early United States and the rest of the world. His son Barnabas Bidwell lived in Stockbridge and was an esteemed attorney, and state representative who served in the US House of Representative during President Thomas Jefferson's administration. One of his great-granddaughters, Mercy Partridge, married Rev. Thomas Whitney in 1819 and was a member of the first group of missionaries to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii). (For his book, *Hawaii*, James Michener based his missionary characters on Mercy Partridge Whitney and other members of this group using their diaries.)

Mercy's father, William Partridge, Sr. (Rev. Bidwell's grandson), was born in Pittsfield in 1793, then moved west, and became a bishop in the early Mormon Church, traveling with Joseph Smith to Illinois where he died. Two of his other daughters, Eliza Marie Partridge and Emily Dow Partridge, were married to Brigham Young who led the Mormons to Salt Lake City after Joseph Smith's death.

Rev. Bidwell's cousin (several times removed), John Bidwell, was an early pioneer who crossed the prairie to California in 1841 at the age of twenty-two, becoming one of the first emigrants on the California Trail. John Sutter employed John Bidwell as his business manager shortly after the younger man reached California, seven years before gold was discovered at Sutter's mill.

Rev. Bidwell's descendants from Tyringham intermarried with many of the other early Berkshire settlers, including Brewers, Ortons, Springs, and others. Through these marriages, the Bidwell family was related to the Edwards, Williams, Devotions, and many other early fixtures of colonial society. And the blood of these ancestors continues to flow through and energize many families in Monterey today.

But now, we'll continue with more about the founding of Tyringham/Monterey in the 1740s to 1770s, with extracts from the *1947 History of Monterey* prepared for the 100th anniversary of Monterey:

"A community began to flourish and family names appeared, which were to be associated with the town for generations to come. More and more land was reclaimed from the wilderness, some of the settlers extending their holding south toward the Konkapot; others, exploring over the mountain, some of them to move into the valley and call their little settlement Hop Brook.

"The first officers of the Town were Captain John Chadwick, Isaac Garfield and Eathan Lewis, Selectmen. Benjamin Warren was Town Clerk and Capt. John Chadwick, Treasurer.

"The first School house was built in 1766, a twenty foot square building 'on ye northerly end of house lot number 43.' (*Note: House Lot Number 43 was at the intersection of what are now Tyringham Road, Art School Road, and Mt. Hunger Road. That intersection was later called*

"Morse's Corner." The Schoolhouse building is reportedly still part of the house that is on that lot. Before the 1766 school house was built, school was held in residents' houses.)

"In 1739 a tax was levied to erect a 'meeting house.' This was started and a frame thirty-five by forty feet erected, but it was years before it was completed. It was said that due to the threat of an Indian War the work was abandoned and not finished until about 1761. (*Note: The meeting house was actually put in use for town meetings and Sunday services preached by Rev. Adonijah Bidwell starting in 1753. But it may never have been truly "finished." It was by most accounts a cold, drafty, poorly-maintained building.)*

"By the time the Revolution came, the sons of the first settlers were themselves the heads of families. The Boston-Albany road had been well-traveled in the intervening years and was now known as "The Great Road." Those men who stayed to till their fields, could watch General Amherst with his troops and stores go by to get the old fox, Burgoyne, where he was holed up at Fort Ticonderoga.

"But there were not many men able to carry a long rifle left behind. Most of them had joined up with Colonel Fellowes' Berkshire Regiment and had marched off to Bunker Hill, where Samuel Brewer so distinguished himself as to be promoted from adjutant to colonel. Only women and old men were left to cheer as the sullen remnants of Burgoyne's army were led past as prisoners. To the hard-pressed Continentals, rushing the captured cannon of the British over the mountains to General Washington, they served precious tea spiked with rum, and venison pies." (*Note: Henry Knox led this "cohorn caravan" through Tyringham/Monterey on January 10, 1776. This event was re-enacted during the 1976 bi-centennial. See page 1.)*

—Rob Hoogs

Maureen Banner

Frauds and Scams
We've All Been There

On May 26 the council on aging, at a "Grab-n-Stay" lunch event, presented "Fraud Scams and Con-Artists: Coming to a Computer Near You." Presented by Elliot Greenblott from Brattleboro, VT, who is a member of the AARP Fraud Watch Network, which has been in existence for ten years. The program was opened with Andrea Harrington (picutred above), Berkshire County's district attorney, who spoke about the amount of online fraud and the difficulty in prosecuting it, and the oftentimes impossibility of restitution. She did say her department, in cooperation with area law enforcement, has had some success at recovering stolen money and returning it to victims.

Mr. Greenblott made the point that it is important to report fraud and scams to local police, or the district attorney's office, and to tell people around you if you think you've been scammed, or know for a fact you have been. Mr. Greenblott made several encompassing statements that everyone has been targeted, everyone's personal information has been collected and sold, and that these scammers are professionals who are very skilled at eliciting responses to their advantage. A few participants shared their own story at having been scammed by clever strategies.

The AARP Fraud Watch Program can be accessed first by going to aarp.org, and then adding "fraudwatchnetwork" to the website address. —Stephen Moore

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Steve Kahn

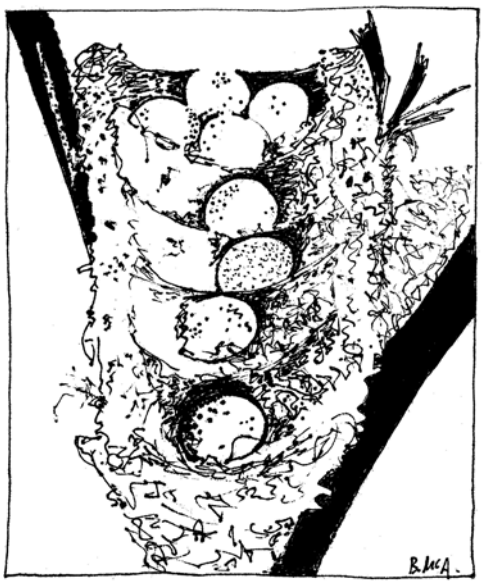
Sondra Klein visited the bench that was built and installed in the Price Community Center in Larry Klein's memory.

Romancing the Buffalo Bird

We have a daily visitor, coming always in social groups, gleaming in the sun. He delights us. We are so fortunate, so chance-chosen, to welcome him into our lives and imaginations. These days he is called brown-headed cowbird, cow blackbird, cow bunting, cow troopial. Or we can say "buffalo bird," as he was once called, and here comes the romance. To look at an active blackbird-sized creature in the feeder and be transported to a long line of associations, some mythical, some familiar in oral tradition, is a pleasure anytime.

Not only are the buffalo gone, but they, too, have been renamed. For them this is done in the name of taxonomic accuracy. To the Latin speakers among us, they have always been *Bison* bison, but we would say "buffalo" in plain English, and we knew what we meant. Great wooly creatures of the plains, always on the move, striding through the long-departed tallgrass prairies. We'd sing that song, wistfully, as kids in our once-a-week singing class in grade school. "Oh, give me a home, where the buffalo roam, where the skies are not cloudy all day. . ." We knew what it meant. Where the deer and the antelope play! Even the antelope have a new name, and it is not better. Try singing, "Where the deer and the pronghorn play." There is not much romance without that third syllable, just like the buffalo.

I thank the bird because he carries me back to a time I never knew except in song and story. I've read the story of the buffalo birds and how they travelled with the great herds. How they had developed a way of life that let them stay on the move and yet be assured of a next generation of offspring.



They do it by laying their eggs in the nests of other birds. Wherever she is, the female buffalo bird looks for a locally nesting bird, a place to lay her egg for someone else to incubate and feed. There are said to be 220 species of nesting birds the buffalo bird has tried out, and of these 144 different ones have been a success.

Moralizing birders label this "social parasitism," and make a statistical case for the buffalo birds' having caused serious declines in the populations of some adoptive nesters, the sodbusters in this story. But some sodbusters know an interloping egg when they see it and toss it right out. Robins, catbirds, blue jays, and brown thrashers do this. Others recognize a strange egg laid in the nest by an interloper, roof it over, and make a new nest one floor up. This can happen again and again on the same original site, as in this drawing. It is a cutaway view of a five-story yellow warbler nest showing several buffalo bird eggs, from a photograph by W.V. Crich.

That buffalo bird had to keep on trying, but she lays her egg very quickly, in just a few seconds, and leaves. Most small birds like her need three to ten minutes to lay an egg. Though she no longer follows the buffalo, she still has no nest-building urge, instinct, or ability. She spends her day with social groups and then goes at night to communal roosts all year round. These often include red-winged blackbirds, grackles, house sparrows, and starlings. The buffalo birds travel south for the winter, after taking advantage of a continuous supply of host nests over a two-month period. Of the forty eggs she may lay in a year, only two or three will mature.

With the buffalo gone, our bird has made do with cows and been renamed a cowbird. As the cows walk about a grassy pasture, stirring up insects, the birds follow along or ride on their backs. They can zip down and grab an ant, wasp, fly, leafhopper, beetle, grasshopper. And they can find plenty of flies right on the backs of the cows.

Buffalo birds are about the size of a bluebird, or a little larger. The males have a brown head and upper breast. Forbush (1926) calls the color "a deep, warm brown." The rest of the male is glossy and black, including gleaming green and purple and violet. Females are more subtle, "grayish-brown," with a "faint greenish gloss." There are darker streaks along the shafts of her feathers. The male's bill is black, the female's brownish, with the lower bill a little lighter. The bill is short and stout, the tail square at the tip. From tail tip to bill tip, these birds are seven to eight inches long.

Buffalo birds are here by March or April, but they are common in winter, too, especially in the Connecticut River lowlands. This may not sound like much of a trip, after the romantic journeys with the buffalo, but these birds live all over our continent, from Alaska and Nova Scotia to Florida and southern Mexico. They still look like travellers, not tied down by housework and chick-rearing. They will be ready to go when the buffalo return.

—Bonner McAllester

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Here's a Thought...
His Spirit Lives On

John Lewis' hearse pulls into Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington on July 27, 2020, on its way to his body's burial. Lewis was deeply influenced by Martin Luther King, Jr.'s commitment to love as being essential to creation of the Beloved Community, a concept I described in my March article. He lived according to what MLK said about that belief they shared: love—which means understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill, even for one's enemies—is the solution to the race problem. Both are gone, but their spirit lives on.

Neither "total equality before the law" nor "separate but equal" describes the lived experience of too many generations of non-white Americans. Historical fact, some of us declare aloud. Historical fact, others of us mumble with a shrug. And still others ask, historical fact? I say, "Yes, historical fact, but also fact here and now."

I had an opportunity, secondhand, but closer than simply observing news on-screen, to grow into that larger truth when I spoke with my friend Nan recently. She and our mutual friend, Anne, made their way to Alabama last March to participate in a march organized to both celebrate the 57th anniversary of the 1965 civil rights march, and to focus attention on one of our most egregious current civil rights abuses, the obstruction of voting rights. For most of this article, Nan will speak for herself.

"Participating in the march was one part of my whole experience of being in the deep South for the first time," she said. "Going to Alabama wasn't a decision I made with my thinking mind; it grew from the wisdom of my heart. I'd recently become a member of The Workers' Circle, a non-sectarian Jewish cultural organization with roots as a Jewish immigrants' mutual aid society in the 1900s. Now their focus is on economic, racial, and health equity. They sent an email announcing they, along with Black Votes Matter and People for the American Way, were co-sponsors of one ten-mile leg of the Selma-to-Montgomery memorial march. And they included a link for anyone to use to sign up to join them.

"As I read it, I realized I'd done enough hand-wringing over my sense of our democracy being very vulnerable right now. As a lawyer, as a human, and as one of the lovers of our Constitution, I felt called by my ancestors, and by my intention for right action as I explore it in my Buddhist practice. I had to go.

"I winter in Florida, so it took two days of hard driving to get to Montgomery, where we all gathered. That's not a complaint, just an observation of my determination to follow through on this opportunity. Visits to the Rosa Parks Museum and the Freedom Rides Museum gave me a more detailed context for the walk than I'd had before. Ordinary people did extraordinary things.

"All that was amplified for me by what I discovered in the Legacy Museum.

The history told there was stark, brutal, horrific, a reign of terror over a people because of their skin color, and because their slave labor was essential to maintaining the white-benefit economy. And the northern economy was built on the same foundation. I didn't know until then that Boston and New York were primary ports for the slave trade."

I thought briefly about how much the north also depended on plantation-produced cotton from the south as the industrial textile mills in Lowell, MA and elsewhere grew the economy. And I remembered that, though slavery was never as widespread in the north as in the south, and though Georgia had unsuccessfully attempted to abolish slavery there between 1735 and 1750, it was the Berkshires' national hero, Mumbet, whose petition for legal freedom made an historical difference that grew and thrived.

Born into slavery in Claverack, NY, Bet was given to the wife of Col. Ashley of Sheffield when Bet was a teenager. The woman's harsh temper was legendary. Every exception to her will was a criminal offense. One day, while interfering with her mistress's blow with a hot shovel aimed at another slave, Mumbet sustained a severe wound to her arm. But it was overhearing discussions of the revolutionary assertion that all men are created equal, as well as aspects of the newly adopted Massachusetts constitution, that brought Mumbet to understand that she, too, was entitled to those rights. Aided by Stockbridge lawyer and abolitionist Theodore Sedgwick, she later filed for her freedom before The Court of Common Pleas in Great Barrington. The jury ruled in her favor on August 27, 1781, which made her the first slave to be granted freedom under the 1780 state constitution. Although Massachusetts had been the first British American colony to recognize slavery as a legal institution (in 1641), the decision to free Mumbet—who later chose the name Elizabeth Freeman—became a precedent in the state supreme court's decision to end slavery in Massachusetts in 1783.

But Nan was still speaking. I heard the name Bryan Stevenson, law professor at New York University School of Law, the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and author of the memoir, Just Mercy.

"Stevenson says, 'Hopelessness is the enemy of justice'," Nan continued. "The hope I learned in Montgomery inspires me. It's a hope in the big picture, maybe not in my lifetime, but I'll persist. Maybe then in the lifetimes of my children and grandchildren. And that hope includes the hope acted on fifty-seven years ago but also the hope of those working today to refuse to give up in the face of repressive voting laws.

"Participating in the march asked so little of me. I have to do more. So I'm picking up the pieces of my shattered childhood idealism and asking myself, What can I do? How do I act, as part of the hope? Even small acts matter. The dismantling of the Berlin Wall was in some ways imperceptible, until it happened. It was like what goes on in winter in nature before the green shoots pop up."

As May opens, I continue to unpack my conversation with Nan. This new month brings us the promise of green shoots popping up all over Monterey. And it's time to risk more hope popping up to act upon, too. Even small ways matter.

If you, or anyone else you know, is interested in the work of John Lewis, google the phrase "good trouble." Want to know more about, and from, Bryan Stevenson? Google the sentence, "Hope is your superpower." Looking for service opportunities? Try Arthur Blaustein's book, Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport. And if you're seeking freedom from abuse at home, the Elizabeth Freeman Center's offices in Great Barrington, Pittsfield, and North Adams invite contact through their toll-free hotline, (866) 401-2425.

—Mary Kate Jordan

A Reckoning

Gathering immediately after our March visit to The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, it was obvious that my travel companions and I were deeply shaken. The silence of this thirty-nine member group, organized by Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City, was palpable and pained. The memorial, a project of Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative, opened to the public four years ago. It is, in the words of the brochure describing it, "the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence." Astonishingly, the memorial honors by name more than four thousand men, women, and children who are identified victims of lynching in the United States between 1877 and 1950.

Our accompanying clergy members were prepared for our reaction. After we had calmed a bit with some chanting, our group read aloud a statement our rabbi and cantor had prepared for us "bear[ing] witness to this monument marking unthinkable atrocity," and urging us to stand with open eyes and hearts. More reading aloud followed; quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr., Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Particularly apt for this memorial was Coates' statement from his book, *Between the World and Me*: "You must never look away from this. You must always remember that the sociology, the history, the economics, the graphs, the charts, the regressions all land, with great violence, upon the body."

Marilyn Rivkin

This sculpture, the Nkyinkyim Installation by Ghanian sculptor Kwame Akoto-Bamfo, is in front of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. "Nkyinkyim" references the Ghanian Twi proverb, "Life's journey is twisted." Nkyinkyim is one of many West African Adinkra symbols. The literal meaning is "twisting," but it also stands for "Initiative, Dynamism and Versatility."

This sculpture is the first thing you see as you approach the monument building, and is startling in the intensity of the suffering depicted. It is one of only a few sculptures in this country representing slavery.

The National Memorial is striking in its originality and devastating in its impact. The names of the lynching victims are engraved into steel rectangles, one for each county where lynchings occurred. The rectangles hang from the ceiling of the square structure whose four connecting hallways are built around an open courtyard (pictured above from outside and inside). As you enter the memorial, you stand on a flat wooden floor, the rectangles hanging from the ceiling, with the names easily visible at eye level. One has the names of twenty-three people, all murdered in one day. Then, as you turn the first corner, the floor slopes downward, and the rectangles hang increasingly higher. You quickly begin to feel that you are surrounded by hanging bodies, all with names, all conjuring images you desperately want to push away. But you can't. Turning the next corner, to the third side, the hanging rectangles continue high above you, and at eye level you are flanked by parallel rows of steel panels, each engraved with the details of a lynching. An example: "Elias Clayton, Isaac McGhie and Elmer Jackson were lynched by a mob of 10,000 people in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1920." Another: "After Calvin Mike voted in Calhoun County, Georgia, in 1884, a white mob attacked and burned his home, lynching his elderly mother and his two young daughters, Emma and Lillie." The fourth hallway has a cascading wall of water on the left, honoring the unidentified African American victims of lynchings whose names and numbers will never be known. And still the hanging rectangles accompany your journey.

In Montgomery our group visited The Legacy Museum, which includes in its name the unsettling words, "From

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Marilyn Rivkin

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Enslavement to Mass Incarceration." This is another profoundly stirring installation created by the Equal Justice Initiative. The museum powerfully and creatively uses different media to take you from the beginnings of slavery in the western hemisphere through the "terrorism of lynching and the humiliation of the Jim Crow South" that took place in defiance of Emancipation and the Civil Rights Movement. The last section of the museum documents the present-day mass incarceration of blacks grossly disproportionate to their numbers in the general population. Bringing the history into the present drives home The Legacy Museum's disturbing message that "slavery did not end; it evolved." Though our time was shorter in Selma and Birmingham, there was much there to learn and experience. We had the privilege of hearing two passionate speakers who had marched from Selma to Montgomery for voting rights in 1965, and continue their activism today, one eighty-three and the other over ninety.

I have been to other memorials. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC; the 9/11 Memorial in New York City; Yad Vashem, in Israel, honoring victims of the Holocaust; and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, also in DC. Those, and others, I found deeply, deeply affecting. But my reaction to this trip and our two-day immersion in the history of slavery has been more lasting. Truly haunting. The National Memorial's concept and emotional impact are extraordinary. The distress I experienced at that memorial only grew after visiting the other museums and historical sites.

Ultimately though, it was not only the repeated message or the effectiveness of the delivery that was so devastating for me. What was truly heart-wrenching was to stand on soil where African Americans, generation after generation, had been tortured and enslaved. That made the catastrophic history of American slavery and its aftermath real to me in a way nothing in my education or experience had done before. It went beyond telling an already familiar tragic history, asking, almost demanding, that I not only bear witness, but find a way to join in the continuing struggle to bring justice to African Americans who still endure America's legacy of enslavement and discrimination.

It is a daunting task, and one I know my traveling companions—and many others—share. Our group discussed some of the obvious options: learn more, share knowledge and experience, donate to organizations which promote equality, work to secure voting rights. Though it is easy to be disheartened, I find inspiration in the wisdom of others. The Legacy Museum has a statue titled "Exode, No Home," by Sandrine Plante, a life-size representation of a young black woman dressed in rags whose wrists are bound together with thick rope and whose gaze is both fearful and strong. Above her hangs a panel with the words of Phillis Wheatley, born in Africa and sold into slavery in Boston at seven years old, in 1761. Ms. Wheatley, the first African American to publish a book of poetry, was emancipated in 1773, shortly after her book was published.

She wrote: "[In] every human Breast, God has implanted a Principle, which we call Love of Freedom; it is impatient of Oppression, and pants for Deliverance."

May the "Love of Freedom" Ms. Wheatley affirmed so long ago keep us moving forward toward a more just and peaceful world.

—Lin Saberski

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A Sandhill Crane Odyssey

In the middle of March, we were talking with Cindy's sister in Montana about bird migrations, and we decided—on the spur of the moment—to make an odyssey to Nebraska to see the spectacular sandhill crane migration. A week or so later, we hit the road—literally—following I-90 west through New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and then along the route of the pioneers' trails (paralleling I-80) through Iowa and Nebraska, ending at Kearney in south central Nebraska by the Platte River. Along the way, we stopped at several fascinating national wildlife refuges and historic sites. But the main event was the sandhill cranes.

What's so special about them? First of all, they are a beautiful large bird with gray plumage, golden eyes, and a gloriously red crown. They stand about three to four feet tall and have a wingspan of about six feet. (See sidebar for more fun facts.) Secondly, a lot of them migrate together, making quite a spectacle. These cranes seem to love company, at least when they're hanging out around the Platte River. They use the prairies, cornfields, and floodplains along the river to refuel during their annual migration from their wintering grounds in Texas and Northern Mexico north to their nesting grounds in the northern plains, central Canada, Alaska, and even Siberia. Their route is like an hourglass funneled through a seventy-five-mile long stretch of the Platte River. Individual cranes

Nesting Grounds
THE CENTRAL FLYWAY
1,000,000 sandhill cranes stop on the Platte River in Nebraska from mid-February through early April
Winter Grounds

generally stay along the Platte River for two to three weeks, stoking up for the next part of their journey north.

An estimated five hundred thousand to one million sandhill cranes (named for the sand dune hills of north central Nebraska) are reported to make this journey between late February and early April, with the peak migration occurring in the last two weeks of March—just when we were there. Lucky us!

The Platte River is very favorable to the sandhill craness because of its very broad, shallow, braided streams. The native Otoes called the river *Nebrathka* meaning flat water. The French called it *platte* which means the same thing. The pioneers called it "too thin to plant, too thick to drink, a mile wide, and an inch deep." The sandhill cranes call it home.

We checked ebird.com the day before we arrived and saw a report from someone who sighted thirty cranes. So, as we approached Kearney, Nebraska on Route 30—the old "Lincoln Highway"—on Friday afternoon, we were excited to see thirty or more cranes feeding among the stubble of the cornfields along the highway and several flocks flying overhead. After checking in to our hotel, we got even more excited as we drove east ten miles along I-80, right next to the Platte River, and saw hundreds of cranes in the corn fields and flying. We ended up along the South Branch of the Platte River around six in the evening at the Plautz Viewing Platform. Hundreds of other birdwatchers were there to observe the evening fly-in of the cranes. Everyone was festooned with long camera lenses, spotting scopes, and binoculars.

As the sun began to set, phalanxes of cranes flew over our heads, cooing, chortling, and chorusing, wheeling around, celebrating their successful day of feeding, and welcoming their kin back to their

roosting place in the river. After apparently receiving the "okay" from the cranes' air traffic controller, whole platoons cruised down over the river, lowering their long legs and deploying their wings to float to a soft landing like a very large group of parachutists. They crowded on the sandbars and shallow river water, drinking deeply after their dry day of foraging, and jumping, dancing, jostling, calling, and greeting. It is hard to estimate accurately how many cranes we saw but it had to be over a hundred thousand!

The sound of their gatherings was unforgettable. While the cranes were in the fields, we found it very difficult to hone in on the direction or distance to an individual crane's calling. But when they were flying overhead, landing, or roosting in the river, the collective sound of the cranes was almost deafening. It sounded similar to an extremely loud chorusing of spring peepers.

We experienced three of the spectacular evening fly-ins, and one early morning fly-out. The cranes leave the river early in the morning before sunup to go to the corn fields. When we arrived about 6:30 one morning, it was about 25° with a brisk north wind. We had on every piece of clothing available, but it was worth it. As the sky lightened, the tens of thousands of cranes we had seen fly in during the previous evening were waking up, chatting loudly among themselves, no doubt making their plans for the day. As we watched one flock of several thousand cranes, the leader decided it was time to go and the entire group rose in a matter of seconds and flew off over our heads past the waning crescent moon, singing a great hallelujah chorus in multipart harmony. It was a journey never to be forgotten!

You can see more of our photos and videos at tiny.cc/HoogsSandhillCranes. Turn your sound on for the videos to hear the cranes.

On our way home from Nebraska, we stopped at the homestead of President James A. Garfield, and at Hiram College in Ohio where he was a student. But that's another story …

—Rob and Cindy Hoogs
(Photos by Rob Hoogs)

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Sandhill Crane Facts

Courtesy of Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe, Nebraska Sanctuary.

- Most seen in the Platte River valley are lesser sandhill cranes.
- Average height 41 inches tall.
- Average wingspan 73 inches.
- Average weight 7.3 pounds.
- Life span: wild birds can live 25 years or longer.
- Fly 30 to 50 miles per hour.
- Travel about 350 miles per day.
- Some travel over 10,000 miles annually.
- Fly at altitudes of 3000 to 5000 feet.
- Cranes are omnivorous eating both meat and plants. Diet while at the Platte River is about 80% waste corn and 20% insects, mice, snakes, frogs, and some other plants.
- Pre-settlement (prior to cultivated cornfields), their diet consisted of tubers, invertebrates, and grass seeds found in wet meadows.
- While here, cranes gain up to 20% of their body weight.
- Cranes sleep, or roost, in the Platte River on sandbars covered with shallow water and surrounded by deeper water. The water acts as an alarm against land predators like coyotes.
- Young cranes are called *colts*.
- Adult females are *mares*.
- Adult males are *roans*.
- The red crown is actually a patch of skin, not feathers.
- Their beak is used like a gardener's trowel to dig for food.
- Cranes are known for their dancing abilities, to find a mate, relieve tension, and just for fun.
- Cranes have three long toes pointing forward and one very small toe back. The small back toe makes it impossible for cranes to land in trees. Claws on the end of the toes are used to scratch at the ground while foraging for food and as weapons.
- Adult cranes have a deep, loud tone that can be heard over a mile away.

—Rob Hoogs

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The Bidwell House Museum
Summer activities

The Bidwell House Museum is open for tours! After the cancellation of our season in 2020 and a shortened house tour season in 2021, the museum was very excited to begin guided tours of the museum on our traditional opening date of Memorial Day.

These personal, small-group tours last about an hour and include a look at the architecture of the house, a history of the Bidwell Family and their connection to Monterey, information about housewares and decor in eighteenth century New England, and a walk through the first and second floors of the house. The museum is accessible and there is a video tour of the second floor for those visitors who are unable to climb stairs. As in 2021, all tours will be by appointment only, must be booked twenty-four hours in advance, and will be available on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tours can be reserved by either calling (413) 528-6888, or emailing bidwellhm2@gmail.com. Tickets for adults are $15, seniors are $10, student tickets are $5 and children 12 and under are free.

Also returning in 2022 is our summer history talk series and the Bidwell Country Fair. On Saturday, June 4, at 11 a.m., we return to the Tyringham Union Church for our first history talk of the season with Suffolk University Professor Robert Allison. In his talk, "The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano," Allison shares the story of Olaudah Equiano, also known as Gustavus Vassa, who wrote one of the most extraordinary, and best-selling, books of the eigtheenth century. It was the story of his life, which took him from West Africa to the West Indies, and to England, the Mediterranean, and the Arctic in a time of war and revolution. Professor Allison has edited the most recent edition of Equiano's interesting narrative. He will discuss Equiano's life, his reasons for writing his book, the mysterious controversy of Equiano's origins (was he born in Africa or in America?) and why his life continues to matter. This talk will be in-person but we will provide the option to watch the lecture as a livestream via Zoom. To register, head to our website, bidwellhousemuseum.org, under "Events." This program is sponsored in part by grants from the Monterey, Tyringham, and Sandisfield Cultural Councils, local agencies which are sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Then on Saturday, June 25, from 12 to 4 p.m., the museum will host the fun, free community event, the Bidwell Country Fair! Back for the first time since 2019, this year we are celebrating the 175th anniversary of the town of Monterey. Visitors to the fair will enjoy music by Paula Bradley and Oakes and Smith; reenactments by the Butler's Rangers and Matthew Mees as Reverend Bidwell; kids crafts, a scavenger hunt, and face painting; artisans demonstrating blacksmithing, wool spinning, basketmaking, timber framing and stone carving; food by Flour Bin Bakery and Catering and SoCo Ice Cream; a display of Monterey history, and more. This program is sponsored in part by grants from the Monterey, Tyringham and Otis Cultural Councils, local agencies which are sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Bidwell Country Fair is one of our biggest events of the year and we are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and the welcome table, so if you are interested in helping out, contact the museum at bidwellhouse@gmail.com. The house will be closed for tours on the day of the Country Fair but the gardens and trails will be open all day. A full schedule of events will be posted on the museum website in early June.

The museum is located at 100 Art School Road and, as mentioned above, tours are available by appointment on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. To schedule a tour call (413) 528-6888, or email bidwellhm2@gmail.com. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open every day free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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Letters

"Berkshire Eagle" Editorial

The *Berkshire Eagle* published an uninformed and unwarranted editorial on May 7-8, 2022, entitled "Report on Monterey." It claimed the investigator's report had been kept from the public and swept under the rug, it criticized the select board for not holding executive sessions for each employee against whom complaints had been filed, and it asserted that other town business was being left unaddressed. All of those charges are false.

Initially, the investigator described the report submitted to the select board as "confidential." That was necessary because the select board had to decide whether to offer joint or individual executive sessions to the employees against whom complaints had been filed. At the first executive session, town counsel advised that whether or not executive sessions were held, the report would become a public document available to all once the select board resolved what to do about it. There was some discussion about publishing only parts of the report, but as town counsel advised, the availability of a document to the public is controlled by the state public records act and not by the select board. Equally available to the public is the detailed and devastating rebuttal of the investigative report filed by the town administrator's attorney.

The select board had preliminary discussions about the report's recommendations, none of which called for discipline of any employee. Some recommendations were included in the budget at our town meeting, which preceded the Berkshire Eagle editorial, and others were left for further discussion by the newly constituted select board. Executive sessions became unnecessary and indeed impossible under the Open Meeting Law for all concerned employees, except the town clerk, since they demanded open and transparent hearings.

At the first public meeting after receipt of the investigator's report, the select board determined not to take action against any employee and instead to focus on the recommendations for improving governance in town hall. The new select board is focusing on ten possible recommendations.

Contrary to the editorial's assertion, throughout the investigative process and continuing at present, the select board has promptly resolved the town's business. Nor, with the possible exception of the town clerk's office, has productivity been eroded in town hall. Given the welcome and overdue resignation of John Weingold from the select board, the present membership is working pleasantly together, and we can look forward to a full complement of board members following the September special election.

Our new select board chair, Justin Makuc, immediately adapted to his new leadership role. The meetings are efficient and collegial. Respect for individual dignity is ever present. It has been a trying year, but Monterey has turned the corner and is moving with assurance in a positive direction.

—Don Coburn

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

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May Wildlife: Toads, Foxes, Birds, a Moth, and still more Bears

Late in April Peter Murkett saw otter tracks and a mudslide in a favorite wet place not far from where he lives. In the photograph (below) you can see the five-toed print. There were also two bear cubs

climbing up some big pines, with their mom nearby. Here on Hupi Road Steve Snyder was driving slowly along in early May, watching a fox marking territory here and there, not much worried about Steve. They travelled the road together like this for about one hundred yards and Steve took a good photograph (below).

Janet Jensen saw a fox trotting along the edge of Brookbend's back yard. It looked a little skinny, she thought, with its tail not fluffed out, but maybe it had crossed the Konkapot and was wet.

I saw a fine red fox in mid-May. She came out of the woods by Cora Baker's driveway, carrying a small fat rodent. She stopped and looked me over, dropped her prize, which lay still. Then she picked it up again and headed out the driveway and across Hupi, probably carrying dinner home for her pups.

Kit Patten and Connie Wilson like to visit Steadman Pond. Recently they found the shallows there alive with swimming toads, the kind of amphibian you usually think of as being terrestrial. Mostly they are, but at mating season they head for the water and even swim a bit, though they float much higher in the water than typical frogs do and they don't dive under. They give a musical trilling sound during courtship and lay eggs in long strings, with the smaller males sitting up on top of the females, contributing to the external fertilization arrangement by giving off sperm as the eggs emerge from the female's cloaca.

Turtles are on the move, too, leaving the water to go lay eggs on land. I saw a big snapper (above) just returning to the beaver pond, sliding and swimming along a shallow tributary, her back still dry from terrestrial egg-laying.

Aldeth and Dan Lewin discovered a wood turtle, "crawling across the yard which has a pond nearby." They took a photograph (above). The Lewins also had a visit from "the three bears" folks have been seeing around town. This group had opened the door of the family car, a Toyota Corolla, and climbed right in. Aldeth says they all left the scene, with "no damage to vehicle or bears." Some of us are locking our cars when we can remember. And not leaving the keys in the ignition!

Sudi Baker left here one day in mid-May and came upon two bear youngsters crossing our road. They fit the description of the younger generation of the three bears: four legs, two ears, black fur, and overall not too big and not too small.

David Blaskey, also here in the eastern part of town, took a fine photograph (above) of a big black bear with white chest markings. There were no youngsters to be seen. Michelle Arnot saw bears along Route 23, near the firehouse, and took a great photograph.

The other tree-climbing mostly black character in the woods is the porcupine. Our dog Rocky came a little too close and had to get a ride to the vet. (Did he learn anything? We are not yet sure.) Kit Patten has a quilly young neighbor he calls Jemma and sent us a photo (below).

Ed Salsitz has also been charmed by the prickly quill pig. One of his photographs shows the orange incisors typical of many rodents. Beavers are like this, too. The orange surface is an enamel that is harder than the dentin in the rest of the tooth, which wears away more easily. This is a self-sharpening design leaving the orange outer edge sharp, like the hardened steel on a chisel. Order *Rodentia*, the "chisel teeth."

Here in the delirious high season of birdsong and behavior, we have growing lists on our home calendar, including assorted warblers, indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers, orioles, and more. Bonsai Cox sent a photograph (above) of a rose-breasted grosbeak landing on the suet cage. She got another picture of three at once. Bonsai has also hosted a red-bellied woodpecker at the suet and seen the Canada goose

family down by the water, parading with little fluffy goslings.

Steve Moore reports bobolinks high in the maples along Wellman Road and Baltimore orioles in the home quince bush. He has seen a cowbird, a catbird, and then tree swallows and bluebirds competing for the nest boxes in their yard. Down at the end of the field at Steve and Wendy's place a big black bird high in an oak turned out to be a raven, complete with its "cronking" call, which is just one of many fine vocalizations from this famous bird.

Finally, we have a glorious insect from Bonsai Cox. This is the rosy maple moth, with Bonsai's photograph taken on glass (above). One of my books says this moth is the "second most popular moth." Those polled put the luna moth down for number one. What this really proves is that there are statisticians for everything. And the photograph proves the rosy maple moth is a marvel.

Thank you everyone.

— Bonner McAllester
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Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

—Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper,
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at montereyma.gov.

For agendas and links to watch public meetings of towns and boards, go to the town website (above), select the board or commission of interest, and choose "Agendas" or "Minutes." Links for online viewing are listed in the agendas.

You can also search YouTube.com for more recent meeting videos. Search "Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings" and click on videos.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911
Town Administrator:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Community Center: 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org
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chief@montereyma.org
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Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
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(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

Council on Aging

Our council on aging outreach coordinator, Emily Hadsell, is available in her office in town hall, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can also call her at (413) 528-1443, ext. 112, or email coaoutreach@montereyma.gov, with any questions.

June Events

Annual Elder Law Lecture: Thursday, June 9, from 3:30 to 5p.m., at the Monterey Community Center. Come hear about options available for estate planning and community care. Call Emily Hadsell (number above). Presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association.

Movie Night: This month's movie, *Kinky Boots*, will be shown on Tuesday, June 14, at 7 p.m., in the Monterey Library.

Ongoing Services

Wellness Clinic: The wellness clinic will take place on Thursday, June 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. Appointments to take blood pressure and do an assessment are no longer necessary.

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, June 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Call Emily (number above) if you'd like more information about the program.

Transportation: For seniors and people with disabilities needing trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

Foot Nurse: Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. Council on aging covers $10 of her fee.

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers through the council on aging.

—Lin Saberski, Chair
Council on Aging

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Calendar

MCC- Monterey Community Center event descriptions are on pages 6 and 7.

Tuesdays:
Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., under the tent, MCC.
Bridge, 1 p.m. MCC.
Mahjong, 7 p.m., MCC.

Wednesdays:
Tai Chi, 10 a.m., MCC.
Mahjong lessons, 4 p.m., MCC.

First Thursdays: Darn yarners, 10 a.m. MCC.

Thursdays: June 5, 19, & July 2. Folk chorus, 4:30 p.m., firehouse pavilion.

Fridays: Bridge, 1 p.m., MCC.

Saturdays: Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m., not on June 25, MCC.

Sundays: Monterey softball. Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30 as weather permits.

Tuesday, June 2: Yoga Nidra, 6 to 7 p.m., with Nancy Monk, MCC.

Thursday, June 9: Elder and Estate Law with Paula Almgren, 3:30 to 5 p.m. See council on aging on page 30.

Saturday, June 11:
Birdwatching walk with Joe Baker, 9 a.m., MCC.
Fishing derby, 9 to 10:30. 240 Hatchery Road (River Road in Monterey.) Berkshire National Fish Hatchery.
Native Plants Working Group: 11 a.m., MCC.

Saturday, June 4: Bidwell history talk. Narrative of Olaudah Equiano. Tyringham Union Church, 11 a.m. See page 26.

Saturday, June 11: Memorial service for Jack Ryder, 2 p.m., Corashire Cemetery, followed by a celebration 2:30 to 5:30 in Great Barrington. See page 7.

Thursdays, June 16, 23, & 30: *En Plein Air* Painting with Ann Getsinger, 12:30, MCC.

Saturday, June 18:
Understanding and Improving Posture, 2 p.m., MCC.
Knox Gallery: *Alan Roland: Smalls*, jazz concert, library, 7 p.m. See page 9.

Wednesday, June 22: Diabetes support group,1 p.m., MCC.

Saturday, June 25:
Reiki Certification Training, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with Nancy Monk, MCC.
Bidwell Country Fair, noon to 4 p.m. See page 26.

Friday, July 1: Opening reception for "Monterey's Attic" historical exhibit, 7 to 8 p.m., library. See page 15.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be emailed to montereynews9@gmail.com or telephone us at (413)528-4007.

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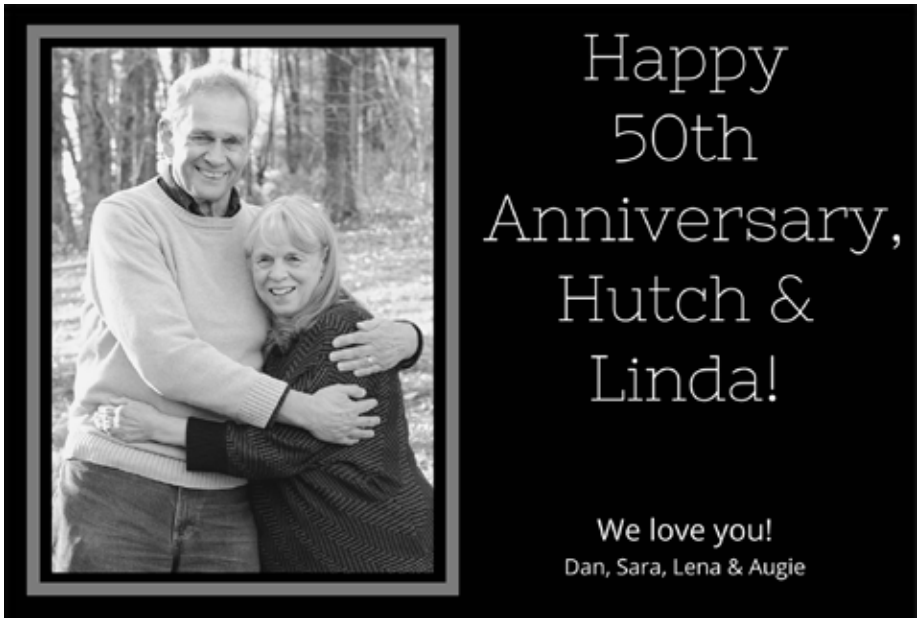

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Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 16; Bonner McAllester, p. 20.

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